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The gentle twitter of the birds would sound more musical if occasionally we had a few gentle drops of rain.

Farmers Appeal to the President.

Concord, N. H. Feb. 28, 1911.
To The President:

I regret that on the occasion of the recent visit of some forty representatives of the Grange to Washington, for the purpose of protesting to the Senate Committee on Finance against the enactment of the pending Canadian Reciprocity Bill, it was not found convenient to arrange for an interview with you, at which the objections of the farmers of the country to this measure could have been submitted to you personally. I wish now to present for your consideration a brief statement of the essential facts on which the agricultural interests base their opposition to the proposed reciprocity arrangement.

The declaration of principles of the Republican party, as laid down in the national platform adopted in 1908, promised the maintenance of a protective system based on the difference between costs of production in this country and in foreign countries. This pledge constituted a contract between the Republican party and the people, because of this contract, a majority of the farmers joined in electing a Republican Administration.

It was clearly established by facts submitted to the Senate Committee on Finance that the cost of producing the staple farm products which are to be admitted free of duty under the pending bill, is materially higher in this country than in Canada. Canadian farm lands are much cheaper than ours; wages of Canadian farm labor are lower; the cost of living is lower in Canada owing to that country's lower tariff taxes on manufactured articles; and the farmers of this country are compelled to pay out annually immense amounts for fertilizers, which, owing to their great areas of virgin soil, are not required by the Canadian farmers. For all these reasons, the average cost of production on the farms of the United States is unquestionably higher than on Canadian farms. It is therefore, self-evident that adherence to the platform of the Republican party requires the imposition of duties on Canadian farm products equal to the difference between the cost of producing them, and of producing similar articles in this country.

Having thus shown by applying the principle laid down in the Republican platform the right of the great agricultural industry to protection against the competition of Canadian farm products, no further argument should be necessary to show the injustice of abolishing the duty on these products, while making no reduction in duties on manufactured articles that will lower their cost to the farmers. I wish, however, to ask your attention to some results of this legislation, which will not only greatly injure the farming industry, but the commercial, manufacturing, financial, and transportation interests as well.

It cannot be successfully denied that the effect of this bill will be to reduce the prices paid to a large proportion of our farmers for their products. This being the case, it follows that there will be an immediate fall in the value of our farm lands in all sections affected by Canadian competition. It is estimated that the loans on farm lands in this country amount to \$3,000,000,000 and a large part of these loans have been made on the supposition that farming was to continue to be as profitable in the future as in recent years. The enactment of the reciprocity bill would at once result in a general falling in of hundreds of thousands of loans; farms would be sold at a sacrifice; the stability of many banking institutions would be endangered, and a panic would ensue. Eminent bankers have recently declared that the conditions relating to loans on farm lands are the chief danger to continued financial stability, and I can see no escape from the conclusion that the direct and immediate effect of this bill becoming a law will be to precipitate a financial convulsion

that will be worse than the panic of 1907.

Throughout the New England States and other Eastern and Northern states, many thousands of farmers have invested their small earnings in western farm and fruit lands. Reciprocity will endanger all these investments and will prevent the development of the great tracts of arable land within our borders.

The price of wheat has already fallen from ten to twelve cents per bushel since the Reciprocity Bill was introduced in Congress, and the wholesale prices of many other farm products affected by that measure have also fallen. If the bill is enacted, prices will fall still lower, with the result that the 35,000,000 people living on farms will have just so much less money with which to buy manufactured articles. Will a decrease in the purchasing power of the farmers benefit the factory workers in our towns and cities? On the contrary, will it not injure them by depriving them of a part of their most valuable market for their products? Will not this mean less goods handled by our railways, and sold by our merchants? Any legislation that diminishes the capacity of the farmer to buy manufactures, hurts all other business interests.

In view of the magnitude of the issues involved in the pending Reciprocity arrangement, and its far reaching effect upon the income of 6,000,000 farmers and the value of their property, I would respectfully urge that the matter is one calling for full discussion and careful deliberation, and that it should not become law until it has been passed upon by the sober judgment of all the people of the country.

Yours respectfully,
N. J. BACHELDER,
Master National Grange.

He Wants To Know.

The following circular letter, sent out by Senator Curtis, explains itself.

Washington, D. C. Apr. 3, 1911.
My Dear Friend:

The President has called an extra session of Congress to consider the reciprocal agreement with Canada. Personally, I have always opposed such agreements on farm products because I believe we were giving more than we received. We give them a market of ninety million people and they open to us a market of only nine million people. Under the former agreement with Canada, from 1854 to 1866, our exports to that country dropped from twenty millions to fifteen millions, a year, while our imports from that country increased from twelve to forty-six million dollars. Under the pending agreement, food and agricultural products, rough lumber, some raw materials and printing paper are to be put on the free list; upon the secondary products, such as fresh and canned meats, flour and manufactured food preparations, the duty is reduced and made identical. Upon manufactured commodities, such as motor vehicles, cutlery, sanitary fixtures, and miscellaneous articles, the duties are reduced. Canada also reduces the duty on coal and cement, and the United States reduces the duty on iron ore and aluminum products. I wish you would write me how the people in your neighborhood feel on this question as I am anxious to vote the sentiments of the people of Kansas. If it has any effect upon the people of Kansas I believe its tendency will be to depreciate the price of the things they produce without any corresponding benefit, and the Canadian agricultural products which are admitted free will have a great advantage over such Kansas products along the Northern border of the United States.

Hoping to hear from you whenever I can be of service to yourself or friends, I am,

Very truly,
CHARLES CURTIS.

W. A. Dunn had discontinued his second hand store on lower main street. The building is being fitted up to be occupied by Oscar Klink, for a shooting gallery.

Will Contest the Election.

When the school house in District 52, northeast of Great Bend burned down recently the question of relocating the house became the main thing and it was necessary to hold an election. The school house was a little to the south of the center of the district, but the claim was made that according to the attendance it was too far north. At the election held on the matter the other day the people of the district had an exciting time, those in favor of the old location winning by three or four votes. It is reported now that the election will be contested on the grounds that some of the voters who live on homesteads on the Cheyenne Bottoms, in the north part of the district were not legally entitled to vote.

Big Class In.

Last Saturday evening would up a three weeks campaign here conducted by E. E. Julian, on behalf of the A. O. U. W. which resulted in some thirty applications having been made to the lodge, nearly all of whom have been initiated. The affair was graced by the presence of the Grand Master Workman, Dr. J. W. Graybill, of Newton, and wound up with an oyster supper, which was much appreciated by all. A delegation of nine members of the Albert lodge were present and enjoyed the evening. That work here is progressing very nicely. The watch, mention of which was made about three weeks ago, will be awarded to some member at the meeting this week.

Echoes of the Legislature --- No. V

There seems to have been in the years that have gone, a great deal of trouble about road laws. One thing or another was always wrong. The legislature of 1909 tried to remedy some of these matters, but did not succeed very well. But this last session the road laws were thoroughly and generally overhauled. The new law is very much different from the old, and being a voluminous one, too large to reprint, we give a few of the important items contained therein. No doubt the county clerk will soon be supplying officers charged with its enforcement.

Under this new law the state of Kansas will establish "state roads" connecting the larger cities of the state and the county commissioners will establish "county" roads connecting the various towns and townships of the county.

The cost of maintaining these "state and county" roads will fall on the county, and their upkeep will be under the direction of the county highway engineer.

This means that the New Santa Fe trail will be a "state" road, maintained at the expense of the various counties through which it passes.

And it means that all the towns of Reno county will be connected up with main roads maintained at the expense of the county.

The townships will maintain only the local township roads.

The section of the new law which classifies the roads, is, in full, as follows:

Sec. 18. That the roads of every county in the state shall be classified according to their relative importance as "state roads," "county roads," "mail routes" and "township roads." The "state roads" shall be all roads laid out and defined by the state of Kansas. The "county roads" shall be all roads designated as such by the board of county commissioners of a county, who shall as near as practicable, name as such county roads direct highways connecting cities and market centers, whether both such cities or centers are within the county or one is within and the other without such county. Free delivery mail routes shall be known as "mail routes" and all other public highways within a township are "township roads."

All county and state roads shall be maintained at the expense of the county and all mail routes and township roads where they do not coincide with county and state roads, at the expense of the township in which they are situated; provided, that all roads designated as county roads under the provisions of chapter 198 of the Session Laws of 1909 and established as such at the time of taking effect of this act shall be and remain county roads and shall be maintained under the provisions of this act.

Section 11 makes it the duty of the county engineer to open and keep open and in repair all county and state roads, and makes it the duty of the township trustee to open and keep open and in repair all mail routes and township roads.

Sections 19, 20 21 provide that

the township trustee, clerk and treasurer shall constitute a board of commissioners of roads and highways. The highway commissioners shall hold regular meetings at the office of the township clerk on the second Saturday after the election of township officers, and on the last Saturday of January, April, July and October in each year, and such special meetings as occasion may require.

Section 31 provides for the dragging of roads. It follows:

"The township trustee, with the approval of the highway commissioners shall determine what mail routes and township roads can be dragged and shall each year arrange with some person or persons to drag the mail routes and township roads in their townships, at such times and upon such terms as the highway commissioners may direct. Not more than 75 cents per mile can be paid for each time a road is dragged and not more than ten dollars per mile per year can be paid for dragging.

The county engineer with the approval of the county commissioners shall determine what state and county roads can be dragged and shall arrange each year to have these roads dragged. The amount paid by the county commissioners for dragging state and county roads shall not exceed the amount specified for dragging mail routes and township roads.

Any person making a false return as to the number of miles dragged or the time at which the dragging was done shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more \$50.00.

Any officer who shall neglect or refuse to enforce the provisions of this section as relates to the dragging of roads and highways shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than ten nor more than twenty-five dollars.

Section 36 provides that all poll tax shall be paid in cash and all persons between the ages of 21 and 50 years are eligible to pay this tax of \$3.00 annually. This applies to all persons who have resided 30 days in the state.

Section 42. No township trustee shall make or cause to be made any ditch more than two feet deep without the consent and approval of the county engineer, and the trustees must make and maintain suitable crossings in front of residence property over all ditches one foot deep or more.

Sec. 44. The township trustee shall put up and maintain at each end of every bridge in his township of 25-foot span or more the following sign, printed in conspicuous letters: "Five dollars fine for riding or driving over this bridge faster than a walk or for driving an automobile faster than ten miles an hour."

Sec. 49. It shall be unlawful for any person to plow up the public highway for any purpose except for the improvement or maintenance of the highway and under the direction of the township trustee, or to remove from any public highway any dirt, sand or gravel. A violation of this is punishable by a fine of not less than \$3.00 nor more than \$10.00.

Our "Grand Old Lady" Cheerful Though Ninety.

Clara Barton, at 90, is the Grand Old Woman of America. She is as bright and as cheerful as ever, although she just passed through a severe illness brought on by attempting personally to keep up with her large correspondence. "Work" she says, "is a sort of religion with me. It has been my greatest joy. Without plenty of congenial work, complete happiness seems impossible."

Glen Echo Park, where Miss Barton is spending the last years of her life, is about two miles from Washington. Its projectors intended it to be a great pleasure resort, but from the quietude that reigns there at the present time their expectations have evidently not been realized. Miss Barton's home is within sight of the station. It is a large, three-story structure, which, seen thru the forest of trees in the vicinity reminds one of some medieval castle. There is a wide, old-fashioned Southern veranda where the founder of the Red Cross takes the sun on bright days says the Philadelphia Ledger.

Miss Barton is a real daughter of the Revolution. She was born at Oxford, Mass., in 1821, her father being Judge Stephen Barton, who fought under Mad Anthony Wayne. She taught school for awhile, worked as a cloth trimmer, established the Borden-town free school, and finally went to Washington, President Buchanan appointed her to a clerkship in the postoffice, which, it is said, was the first regular government position of the kind ever given a woman.

When the Civil War broke out she gave up this position in order to work in the field. From April 1861 to the close of the Civil War Miss Barton was with the Union army. She was there by the authority of President Lincoln and Sec. of War Stanton. Among the various fields of battle and relief on which she served were those of Cedar Mountain, second Bull Run, Fort Wagner, Spotsylvania, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness and Petersburg.

In the summer of 1865 she undertook the task of identifying the unknown dead in and around Andersonville, and in laying out the first national cemetery. Following the Civil War she began the work of searching for the missing men of the army. The president gave her authority for this work in the following characteristic document:

To the Friends of Missing Prisoners: Miss Clara Barton has kindly offered to search for the missing prisoners of war. Please address her at Annapolis, Md., giving name, regiment and company of any missing prisoner.

A. LINCOLN.

This brought the heartbroken correspondence of all missing soldiers to her, and placed on the records of the government the names of 23,000 men who otherwise had no record of death.

After that Miss Barton went abroad and took part in the relief work of the Franco-German war and at hospitals. She was at Metz, Strasburg, Belfort, Baden and Paris. She reached the French capital after the fall of the Commune and helped to distribute food to the half starved and half crazed people of that city.

After her return to America Miss Barton immediately entered upon a new era of usefulness. To recount the services she rendered to humanity would include the Michigan forest fires, the Mississippi and Ohio river floods the Texas famine, the Mount Vernon, Ill., cyclone, the Johnstown dam disaster, the South Carolina sea island tidal wave, the Cuban reconcentrado policy, the Galveston storm.

Sitting in the living room of her home at Glen Echo, Miss Barton often thinks of these bygone days. Her room is crowded with decorations and honors that have been bestowed upon her by persons and the rulers of all nationalities. One thing that she treasures very much is the iron cross of Prussia, which was given to her by Emperor William I and

the Empress Augusta. Another is the gold cross of remembrance given her by the grand duke and grand duchess of Baden. With these are the medals of the national committee of the Red Cross of Geneva, Switzerland, the red cross given her by the queen of Servia, the silver medal bestowed upon her by Empress Augusta of Germany, the flag presented to her by the congress of Berne, Switzerland, and the jewels pinned on her bosom by the grand duchess of Baden.

Another memento that she cherishes with peculiar reverence is the diploma of honor that came from the German war veterans. Next to this are the jewels given her by the queen of Prussia, the diploma of honor from the Red Cross of Austria, a diploma and decoration from the Sultan of Turkey, another from the Prince of Armenia, a diploma and decoration by the Spanish government a vote of thanks from the Portuguese Red Cross, the resolutions of the relief committee of Galveston, the engrossed vote of thanks from the legislature of Texas, and the decoration of the Order of the Red Cross from the Czar of Russia.

Real Estate Transfers.

For the week ending April 15, 1911, furnished by the Barton County Abstract and Title Co., Great Bend, Kansas.

Chas W. Ross-Minnie Robinson part of blk 17 Pawnee Rock \$200.
J. L. Peiper-N. A. Anderson W. 37.5 ft. of lot 9 blk 16 town Co's add Hoisington, \$300.

G. W. Cooney-N. A. Anderson 1/2 of lot 8 blk 16 town Co's add Hoisington, \$250.

G and A. Jeno-James F. Feno, part of a w 1/4 of 5-18-13 \$1.

N. A. Anderson-Joseph W. Mauller, lots 11-12, blk 16 Town Co's first add Hoisington, \$50.

Grace W. Rude-Charlotte Murray, lots 1, 2, 3 blk 10, town Co's first add Hoisington, \$1.

Samuel Brown-Willis Brown lot 3 blk 122 Great Bend, \$1.

E. A. Harper-J. A. Haberman, pt of blk 44, Great Bend \$4,000.

A. M. Painter-Earl N. Smith, lot 4 blk 4, Pawnee Rock, \$300.

Walter S. Tindall-D. T. Spiers, lot 1, blk 4, Hoisington \$1275.

F. J. Weber-F. E. Baer, 3/4 of blk 8, all of lot 9 blk 7, Ellinwood, \$1.

G. Greenwald -Wm. Gagleman part of block 41-A V T add, Gt. Bend, \$1,340.

G. W. Cooney-L. B. Klein, lot 5, blk 15, Hoisington \$1.

Margaret Bloomer-Sabina Shultz lots 1, 3, blk 1, Bloomers add to Clafin., \$80.

Edith Rose-H. W. Ford part of n w 1/4 of 4-18-13, \$600.

A. V. T. & L. Co.-Frederick Ploeger, lot 1 blk 5 Albert, \$100.

Katie M. Smith-Edward Opie, e 50 ft of lot 4, 5, 6 blk 13, H. P. add Great Bend, \$700.

G. H. Nuss-H. H. Nuss, se 1/4 of 4-16-15, \$1,500.

F. J. Zimmer-Hermine Weigel part of 1-18-15, \$1,000.

Farmers & Merchants Bank, of Pawnee Rock-W. N. Bowman et al, part of blk 3, Pawnee Rock, \$1,000.

Lona Scott-S. B. Giddings lot 12 blk 53 A V T add, Great Bend \$350.00.

Fred Steckel-William Steckel, and 1/2 int in 1/2 of lot 4 blk 6, Ellinwood, \$1.

J. L. Mitchell-R. B. Pfister, lots 9-10 blk 56 Great Bend, \$425.

Leota R. McLaughlin-G. H. Zimmer lot 4 blk 85 Gt. Bend, \$4500.

H. C. Wilgden-Henry Gideion, lot 17 blk 1, D O Grays add Hoisington, \$100.

W. D. Jessup-Catherine Woldgen & J. M. Lewis lots 1, 2, blk 17, Olmitz, \$1.

Great Bend Lodge No. 13, A. F. & A. M.

Will hold a special communication Tuesday, April 25, 1911 at 8 o'clock P. M. Work, Master Mason.

Music and refreshments. All Master Masons are earnestly requested to be present.

By order of the W. M. W. Torrey, Secretary.

Will Koelsch of Macksville was in town a couple of hours Tuesday evening.